

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 17, 2008

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007—08 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2609**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Davis**  
*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Anderson and Solorio)*

February 22, 2008

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An act to amend Section 594 of the Penal Code, relating to vandalism.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2609, as amended, Davis. Vandalism: penalties: community service.

Existing law, amended by Proposition 21, an initiative measure enacted by voters at the March 7, 2000, statewide primary election, and requiring a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote of the Legislature to amend, makes a person who maliciously commits specified destructive acts with respect to another's property guilty of vandalism. Existing law grants the court the authority to order a defendant who is convicted of violating this provision, *or* to order the defendant *or and* his or her parents, if the defendant is a minor, to clean up, repair, ~~and~~ *or* replace the damaged property or keep the damaged property or another in the community free of graffiti for up to one year.

This bill would ~~revise the above language to instead~~, *in addition*, require a court, *when appropriate and feasible*, to impose the above cleanup penalties for ~~defendants~~ *any defendant who was convicted of violating those vandalism provisions: but whose sentence was suspended and who was granted probation, as specified*. By increasing the penalties for a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote:  $\frac{2}{3}$ . Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 594 of the Penal Code is amended to  
2 read:

3 594. (a) Every person who maliciously commits any of the  
4 following acts with respect to any real or personal property not his  
5 or her own, in cases other than those specified by state law, is  
6 guilty of vandalism:

7 (1) Defaces with graffiti or other inscribed material.

8 (2) Damages.

9 (3) Destroys.

10 Whenever a person violates this subdivision with respect to real  
11 property, vehicles, signs, fixtures, furnishings, or property  
12 belonging to any public entity, as defined by Section 811.2 of the  
13 Government Code, or the federal government, it shall be a  
14 permissive inference that the person neither owned the property  
15 nor had the permission of the owner to deface, damage, or destroy  
16 the property.

17 (b) (1) If the amount of defacement, damage, or destruction is  
18 four hundred dollars (\$400) or more, vandalism is punishable by  
19 imprisonment in the state prison or in a county jail not exceeding  
20 one year, or by a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars  
21 (\$10,000), or if the amount of defacement, damage, or destruction  
22 is ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or more, by a fine of not more  
23 than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), or by both that fine and  
24 imprisonment.

25 (2) (A) If the amount of defacement, damage, or destruction is  
26 less than four hundred dollars (\$400), vandalism is punishable by  
27 imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by a fine  
28 of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that  
29 fine and imprisonment.

1 (B) If the amount of defacement, damage, or destruction is less  
2 than four hundred dollars (\$400), and the defendant has been  
3 previously convicted of vandalism or affixing graffiti or other  
4 inscribed material under Section 594, 594.3, 594.4, 640.5, 640.6,  
5 or 640.7, vandalism is punishable by imprisonment in a county  
6 jail for not more than one year, or by a fine of not more than five  
7 thousand dollars (\$5,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment.

8 (c) Upon conviction of any person under this section for acts  
9 of vandalism consisting of defacing property with graffiti or other  
10 inscribed materials, the court ~~shall~~ *may*, in addition to any  
11 punishment imposed under subdivision (b), order the defendant  
12 to clean up, repair, or replace the damaged property himself or  
13 herself, or order the defendant, and his or her parents or guardians  
14 if the defendant is a minor, to keep the damaged property or another  
15 specified property in the community free of graffiti for up to one  
16 year. Participation of a parent or guardian is not required under  
17 this subdivision if the court deems this participation to be  
18 detrimental to the defendant, or if the parent or guardian is a single  
19 parent who must care for young children.

20 *(d) If the imposition or execution of sentence is suspended and*  
21 *a defendant is granted probation following conviction under*  
22 *subdivision (b), the court shall, when appropriate and feasible,*  
23 *order the defendant to clean up, repair, or replace the damaged*  
24 *property himself or herself, or shall order the defendant and his*  
25 *or her parents or guardians, if the defendant is a minor, to keep*  
26 *the damaged property, or another specified property in the*  
27 *community, free of graffiti for up to one year. Participation of a*  
28 *parent or guardian is not required if the court deems this*  
29 *participation to be detrimental to the defendant, or if the parent*  
30 *or guardian is a single parent who must care for young children.*

31 ~~(d)~~

32 (e) If a minor is personally unable to pay a fine levied for acts  
33 prohibited by this section, the parent of that minor shall be liable  
34 for payment of the fine. A court may waive payment of the fine,  
35 or any part thereof, by the parent upon a finding of good cause.

36 ~~(e)~~

37 (f) As used in this section, the term “graffiti or other inscribed  
38 material” includes any unauthorized inscription, word, figure,  
39 mark, or design, that is written, marked, etched, scratched, drawn,  
40 or painted on real or personal property.

1 ~~(f)~~

2 (g) The court may order any person ordered to perform  
3 community service or graffiti removal pursuant to paragraph (1)  
4 of subdivision (c) to undergo counseling.

5 ~~(g)~~

6 (h) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2002.

7 SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to  
8 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because  
9 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school  
10 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or  
11 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty  
12 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of  
13 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within  
14 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California  
15 Constitution.